

## City of Anderson – Public Hearing Minutes

Date: April 9, 2026

Time: 6:07 PM

Type: Public Hearing

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### Recording Note

Due to an error, the video recording did not begin at the start of the meeting. Additionally, there were intermittent interruptions to the video feed; however, audio recording continued during those times.

These minutes reflect the general substance of discussion and testimony based on the available audio recording, notes, and recollection.

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### Public Testimony

#### Tara Mozee – Facilities, Staffing, and Community Services

Tara Mozee provided testimony regarding facility conditions, staffing needs, and service priorities.

#### City Building / Facilities:

- Expressed that the current City building is deteriorating and costly to maintain
- Recommendation:
  - Relocating operations, at least temporarily, to the clinic building
  - Considering long-term replacement or redevelopment of the current City Hall site
- Noted that improved facilities may positively impact community perception and growth

#### DMV Operations:

- Acknowledged that the DMV may not be financially self-sustaining
- Stated that:
  - The service may still be valuable to the community

- Continued operation may require ongoing subsidy

#### Public Works / Staffing:

- Disagreed with reducing staffing levels following sewer system changes
- Emphasized that Public Works responsibilities extend beyond sewer operations, including:
  - General maintenance
  - Brush clearing
  - Ongoing infrastructure needs

#### Septic / Economic Opportunity:

- Suggested the City could develop a local septic pumping service
- Noted that residents currently pay significant costs to outside providers
- Identified this as a potential revenue-generating opportunity

#### Community Development:

- Emphasized the need for change to:
    - Revitalize the community
    - Address long-standing issues
  - Stated that continuing current practices without change is not sustainable
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#### Scott Thompson – Fire Department, Stipends, and Operations

Scott Thompson provided testimony regarding fire department operations, funding, and structure.

- Expressed concerns that stipends may create tax burdens and unintended complications for volunteers
- Emphasized that fire departments operate under a clear chain of command and advised against dividing authority between Fire and EMS leadership
- Stated that training and engagement, rather than stipends, are the most effective tools for recruitment and retention

- Highlighted the wildland fire program as a significant revenue source that has historically supported equipment and infrastructure
  - Noted that failure to reinvest in the department may negatively impact volunteer participation
  - Clarified that prior discussion of well testing referred to water flow capacity, not water quality
  - Emphasized the importance of maintaining ISO standards to preserve favorable insurance ratings for residents
  - Recommended maintaining infrastructure, including the pump building, for emergency water supply
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#### Fire Department Structure Discussion

Discussion occurred regarding the possibility of transitioning the Fire Department to a Fire Association and the differences between an association and a nonprofit entity.

- Concerns raised regarding:
    - Liability and legal obligations under City code
    - Ownership of City assets
    - Increased administrative burden
  - Suggested alternative:
    - Formation of a Firefighters Association for fundraising and grant opportunities while maintaining City ownership and control
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#### Facility Conditions – Public Testimony

##### Julie Morris – Facility Conditions and Capital Planning

Julie Morris provided testimony regarding the condition of the current City building and long-term infrastructure planning.

- Stated that the building is in poor and potentially unsafe condition, including:
  - Visible structural deterioration

- Concerns regarding mold and overall building integrity
  - Recommended that the City:
    - Vacate the building due to safety concerns
    - Consider alternatives such as modular units or new construction
  - Encouraged the City to:
    - Focus on long-term solutions rather than short-term repairs
    - Utilize CAPSIS (State capital project funding) for infrastructure needs
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#### Fire Chief Nathaniel Grimes – Department Perspective

Fire Chief Grimes provided comments regarding staffing, stipends, and governance.

- Stated that stipends were discussed conceptually and not as a formal proposal
  - Identified ongoing volunteer shortages and burnout
  - Expressed concerns regarding formation of a nonprofit or fire board, including:
    - Additional layers of governance
    - Increased administrative workload without compensation
    - Potential for conflict between governing bodies
  - Emphasized maintaining the current structure while exploring alternative support options
  - Highlighted continued success of the wildland fire program
  - Reaffirmed commitment to serving the community
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#### Public Correspondence Summary

##### City Clerk – Facility Safety & Budget Priorities

The City Clerk raised concerns regarding unsafe working conditions in the current City office.

- Potential hazards include:
  - Asbestos-containing materials

- Structural roof issues
- Mold and airborne contaminants during repairs
- Noted that repairs cannot safely occur while staff occupy the building

Recommendation:

- Relocate operations to a safe facility
  - Prioritize improvements to the clinic if funding is limited
  - Address long-term solutions following immediate safety concerns
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Maria Redford – USPS (Post Office Conditions)

- Reported significant water intrusion affecting mailboxes, flooring, and workspace
- Standing water impacting multiple mailboxes
- Damage to mail and records

Recommendation:

- Major repair or replacement may be necessary
  - Immediate action needed to protect mail and ensure safety
  - Supported relocation to the clinic building
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Kristy Ligon – DMV Operations

- DMV operates as a commissioned agent and does not cover City overhead costs
- The City bears operational expenses
- Transactions have declined since 2020
- Noted ongoing deterioration of the building and water intrusion issues

Recommendation:

- Evaluate financial viability of continuing DMV services locally
  - Consider alternative service arrangements if financially necessary
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### Sandra Trumbauer – Budget & Community Priorities

- Supported the wildland fire program
  - Expressed concern that DMV operations may not be cost-effective
  - Supported:
    - Lagoon rate increases and expansion
    - Volunteer appreciation efforts
    - Recognition of Fire Chief compensation
  - Supported relocation to the clinic building
  - Encouraged local septic service solutions
  - Supported housing and economic development initiatives
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### Erica & Alan Miller – Sewer Concerns

- Reported ongoing sewer freeze-ups
- Previous mitigation attempts have not resolved the issue

#### Recommendation:

- Investigate using excavation or camera inspection
  - Consider budget implications for similar infrastructure issues
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### Vince Holton – Public Comment (Facebook Submission)

Vince Holton submitted comments via social media regarding several City matters.

- Expressed concern regarding short notice of the meeting
  - Suggested the City building may be repairable at lower cost
  - Proposed potential for community-supported repairs
  - Opposed closure of the DMV
  - Expressed concerns regarding long-term City planning and sustainability
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Clerk's Note Regarding Submission Format

The original submission from Vince Holton was accepted and entered into the record at the direction of the Council to ensure inclusion in the public correspondence for this meeting.

Facebook is not the official venue for submission of public correspondence. The City Clerk does not administer or monitor the City's Facebook page and does not have the authority or capacity to monitor all social media platforms associated with the City of Anderson.

To ensure consistency, transparency, and proper recordkeeping, all public correspondence should be submitted directly to the City Clerk through official channels, including email at Coaclerk2@mtaonline.net.

Acceptance of this submission shall not be interpreted as establishing a precedent for future submissions.

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Closing

Public testimony concluded. No formal action was taken during the Public Hearing.

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Adjournment

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

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Certification

*Katie Grieb*

Katie Grieb – Mayor

Attest: *Darcia Grace 4/14/26*

Darcia Grace – City Clerk

